

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A tool for **preventing electrostatic discharge damage when** handling **an** electronic device[[s]] under test (DUT) board[[s]], where a device plugs into a socket on one side of [[the]] **a** board and socket connectors can be electrically accessed from the other side of the board, the tool comprising:
 - a) a support frame,
 - b) guides on one side of the frame for slidably receiving a DUT board, and
 - c) at least one electrical shorting connector extending from the frame and **adapted for** electrically contacting and shorting socket connectors and leads of an electronic device **to be tested** when a DUT board is inserted into the guides, **the electrical shorting connector preventing electrostatic discharge to the electronic device to be tested.**
2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] **The** tool as defined by claim 1 wherein the support frame comprises an electrically conductive material which is electrically connected to the at least one electrical shorting connector.
3. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 2 wherein the electrically conductive material is aluminum.
4. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 3 wherein the support frame includes a handle for inserting a DUT board into a test system.
5. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 4 wherein the support frame includes a connector for receiving a plug-in patch cord for use in grounding the support frame.
6. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 5 wherein the support frame includes mechanical stops for limiting the travel of a DUT board when inserted into the guides.

7. (Currently Amended) **[[A]] The** tool as defined by claim 6 wherein the DUT board includes a plurality of sockets which receive a plurality of electronic devices for testing, the at least one electrical shorting connector **being adapted to** electrically connect[[s]] and short[[s]] socket connectors and leads of the plurality of electronic devices.
8. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 7 and further including a plurality of electrical shorting connectors.
9. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 8 wherein the electronic devices are in dual in-line packages (DIPs) with parallel sets of leads received by the sockets.
10. (Currently Amended) The tool as defined by claim 9 wherein a plurality of electrical shorting connectors **are adapted to** electrically short the parallel sets of leads.
11. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 10 wherein each electrical shorting connector comprises an array of fine wire brushes.
12. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 1 wherein each electrical shorting connector comprises an array of fine wire brushes.
13. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 12 the support frame comprises an electrically conductive material which is electrically connected to the at least one electrical shorting connector.
14. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 13 wherein the support frame includes a handle for inserting a DUT board into a test system.

15. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 14 wherein the support frame includes a connector for receiving a plug-in patch cord for use in grounding the support frame.

16. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 15 wherein the support frame includes mechanical stops for limiting the travel of a DUT board when inserted into the guides.

17. (Currently Amended) The tool as defined by claim 16 wherein the DUT board includes a plurality of sockets which receive a plurality of electronic devices for testing, the at least one electrical shorting connector **being adapted to** electrically connect[[s]] and short[[s]] socket connectors and leads of the plurality of electronic devices.

18. (Original) The tool as defined by claim 17 and further including a plurality of electrical shorting connectors.